

**DEP****citizen's bulletin**

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This is the first issue of a Department of Environmental Protection Citizen's Bulletin. The style and format of the Bulletin will change as it comes of age, but its purpose will remain the same -- to give you the information you need to participate in decisions affecting the quality of our environment.

In the two years since the Department was formed, we have put together the basic organization and begun several innovative programs to deal with the critical environmental problems of the state. To continue this progress, and to be ultimately successful in husbanding our environment, we need not only the support but the participation of each and every one of you.

In the process of solving environmental problems, we must consider not only health and aesthetics, but jobs, housing, food, city as well as countryside -- for all are part of the environment, none can be overlooked. In order to weigh these varying factors and make the most responsible decisions, we need your help. Recent environmental laws recognize the value of citizen input by providing specifically for public comment at various stages of law making. We consider one of the most important jobs we can do is to give you the information you need to meaningfully participate in public policy making.

We hope this Citizen's Bulletin will be a valuable information conduit. We intend to publish notice of upcoming public hearings (in the hopes of attracting your participation), reports on new rulings, notice of new publications, places to obtain assistance on environmental issues -- in short, pointers to the materials and program you can use in your efforts to assure environmental quality.

Your comments, suggestions and additions will be most welcome. This is your bulletin, and we hope you will find it useful.

At your service,



Douglas M. Costle

Commissioner

Department of Environmental Protection

## PUBLIC HEARINGS....

OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS - The Federal Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) will hold public hearings to receive citizen testimony on the environmental impact of potential oil and gas development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and in the Gulf of Alaska. These were held September 12 - 13 in Washington, and will be held September 18 - 19 in Boston, and October 3 - 4 in the New York metropolitan area.

The hearings are held to incorporate public opinion into a study on OCS development conducted by CEQ, working with EPA in consultation with the National Academy of Sciences and various federal agencies.

The study is to be completed in April 1974. It will assess the environmental impact of the potential oil and gas developments in the two regions against the background of future regional and national energy needs. All impacts, from production to refining and related development, are to be considered to determine any potential or actual damage to marine and human environments. The Council is particularly interested in testimony on resource availability, regional energy supply and demand alternatives, primary environmental effects, technology and controls for safety and oil spills, potential effects of onshore development, and federal state relationships and regulations on OCS management.

Persons wishing to testify should notify the Council in writing. For the national and Eastern regional hearings, letters should be addressed to the Council on Environmental Quality, 722 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006: Attention OCS Hearings. All letters must be received two weeks before the hearing. Each witness is requested to submit prior to the hearing a written copy of his testimony.

PHOSPHATES - The Department held four investigatory hearings across the state and will hold a fifth in Bridgeport, to receive public comment on phosphate levels in detergents. P.A. 73-192 extended the ban on the sale of phosphate detergents in Connecticut from June 30, 1973, to June 30, 1974, and mandated the DEP Commissioner to investigate the effects of both phosphate and nonphosphate detergents and report his findings to the General Assembly by February 15, 1974, with recommendations for legislation. DEP considers public views an important part of its investigations and received testimony from a variety of interested and expert citizens and professionals. One hearing remains to be held, in Bridgeport, October 11 at 8 p.m., Room 203-(Mayor's Conference Room), City Hall, Bridgeport.

The public hearing just described deals with proposed policies and activities of DEP: other kinds of public hearings play a constant role in the regular business of the Department. During July and August some 30 hearings were held as a part of the regular regulatory processes of the Department. These hearings covered a variety of subjects, including permits to discharge waste materials into the air and water, to construct and operate pollution emission sources, to conduct regulated activities in tidal wetlands;



variances from pollution compliance timetables, and revisions to park, commercial fishery and hunting and fishing regulations.

#### PLANS TO BE IMPLEMENTED....

During the summer, DEP released three plans to deal with various areas of environmental concern. The 800-page State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan outlines a many-faceted program for recreation in Connecticut during the next 20 years. It also sets priorities for acquisition of 35,000 acres of land for public use under a \$61.6 million program funded by federal, state and local money. The plan has a number of innovative proposals to improve recreation, and copies are available for citizen review at the various Regional Planning Agencies. The plan has been approved by the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, contingent upon a forthcoming implementation outline.

DEP also released a revised Connecticut State Radiological Assistance Plan outlining procedures to be taken by DEP, State Police and others in the event of accidents involving radioactive materials. Copies may be seen at DEP's Information and Education Office.

An Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan outlining procedures for dealing with spills at the state and local levels has been mailed to every Mayor and First Selectman in Connecticut. Persons observing oil spills are asked to notify the local barracks of the Connecticut State Police, their main barracks around the clock (566-4240) or DEP during working hours (566-3338).

#### PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST....

- "The Hidden Cost of Development", an excellent publication dealing with often overlooked long-term costs of land development, is available for 50¢ from the Nature Conservancy, Suite 800, 1800 N. Kent Street, Arlington, Virginia 22209.
- "Public Control Growing in a Land Use Revolution", by Gladwin Hill, is a noteworthy New York Times article which many people missed as it was published on Labor Day, September 3, 1973. Check your library, or read it at DEP.

Available on request from DEP Information and Education Office....

- a list of threatened wildlife and endangered species of the U.S. as listed by the Office of Endangered Species, Department of the Interior. This list is the basis for Connecticut legislation protecting endangered species.
- Inland Wetland Plants of Connecticut, prepared by the Connecticut Arboretum, William A. Niering and Richard H. Goodwin.
- "A Plan to Use Our Floods, Not Fight Them", a Reader's Digest Reprint describing the successful fight of Littleton, Colorado residents to use Army Corps of Engineers dam and channelization funds to purchase floodplains instead of dam and channelize rivers.
- new hunting and fishing regulations available at your town clerk's office as well as at DEP.

## UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS - 1973

Due to the publication date of this first Bulletin, hearings in late September are also listed.

- September 24 7:30 p.m. Hearing on intent by DEP to establish by order the bounds of tidal wetlands in Greenwich. A copy of the map depicting the proposed boundaries will be available at the Greenwich Town Hall for inspection two weeks prior to the hearing. A DEP representative will be available at the Greenwich Town Hall from 9 a.m. to 12, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to answer questions. TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM, 299 GREENWICH AVENUE, GREENWICH.
- September 24 8 p.m. Public hearing held by the Connecticut River Gateway Committee to develop minimum zoning standards to preserve the area within the conservation zone of the lower Connecticut River. (The zone was established by P.A. 73-349) TOWN HALL, ESSEX
- September 25 8 p.m. A second public hearing on the lower Connecticut River LYME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LYME
- September 28 10 a.m. Application to discharge 500 gallons per day of treated sanitary sewage to the groundwaters in the Lake Waramaug watershed in Warren, by Ronald J. Viola: STATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 129, HARTFORD
- October 3 - 4 Offshore oil and gas - Council on Environmental Quality hearing (see page 4) NEW YORK METROPOLITAN AREA.
- October 11 8 p.m. Investigatory hearing on phosphate content of detergents. ROOM 203 (MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM) CITY HALL, BRIDGEPORT.

Public hearings may have to be rescheduled or additions to the schedule made; this does not, therefore, claim to be an official or complete listing. For details, call 566-5599.



## SUPPLEMENT

### OVER THE SUMMER.....

The Department held or participated in a variety of public hearings over the summer; a brief list of them gives an indication of the current concerns and programs of DEP.

AIR POLLUTION - The Air Compliance Unit held hearings on various stages of four new regulations in its program to abate air pollution as required by the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1970. The Unit held an investigatory hearing to receive public input on the subject of nitrogen content of fuels, prior to formulating regulations on the subject. Five topics were of particular interest: the nitrogen content of various fuels, the availability of fuels with lower nitrogen content, the relative cost of similar fuel with different nitrogen content, and the background nitrogen levels and synergistic effects of nitrogen oxide emissions. As a result of these hearings and other investigations, it was determined that no regulations were needed.

A hearing was also held to receive public comment on a proposed regulation for asbestos, one of the pollutants defined as hazardous by the Environmental Protection Agency. (Beryllium and mercury, other hazardous pollutants, are the next to be regulated.) States must implement regulations set by EPA, or form their own, subject to EPA approval. DEP has chosen to propose its own asbestos regulations designed specifically for Connecticut. Proposals included establishing an asbestos ambient air quality standard, promulgating emissions standards for stationary sources of asbestos, formulating an "asbestos evaluation test" and a permit system before demolition to control air borne asbestos, creating a hazardous material permit which any users of asbestos and other hazardous materials must obtain, requiring a spray permit for spraying of non-asbestos materials, banning any spraying of asbestos material, and providing guidelines for the ultimate disposal of waste asbestos materials. The final regulations will be promulgated not later than September 30.

An investigatory hearing was held on nondegradation and a rule-making hearing on complex sources. These are two federally mandated policies which will require additions to Connecticut's present Air Quality Implementation Plan.

Complex sources, such as shopping centers or highways, are those which contribute to air pollution directly and indirectly as well, through associated activities such as emissions from automobiles attracted to the facility. The complex source requirements will mean the state must, according to federal law, disapprove plans for facilities which will cause the pollutant levels of the air to rise above federal air quality standards. It will also mean that in areas where such a facility will consume only part of the town's remaining clean air, the DEP will provide the town with specific information on which it can base its development decisions and know exactly how much air quality leeway for further development will remain. The complex source regulations are being sent to the Federal EPA for its review not later than October 1.

Nondegradation, also mandated by the federal government, is a policy which would prevent air in areas presently cleaner than the federal standards from significantly deteriorating in quality. DEP sought public views on delineation of nondegradation areas and implementation of the plan. In order to implement the nondegradation policy as discussed at public hearings, it may be necessary to promulgate and adopt regulations. If such is necessary, hearings will be scheduled to receive public comment.

WETLANDS - Hearings on proposed regulations of Connecticut's inland wetlands and watercourses were held in five towns across the state. It is the intent of the Inland Wetlands Act (P.A. 72-155 as amended by P.A. 73-571) that potentially harmful activities on inland wetlands be overseen by a responsible and concerned panel of citizens in a designated local agency of each town. It is DEP policy to urge towns to regulate their inland wetlands locally, by appointing such a body, however, if a town fails to designate a local agency by June 30, 1974, DEP must regulate that town's inland wetlands. DEP may step in to regulate a particularly significant inland wetland after January 1, 1974, if a local agency has not yet been chosen.

The proposed regulations specify inland wetland permit procedures to be followed in those towns in which DEP must regulate activities. The regulations provide that, before a permit may be issued for a regulated activity within an inland wetland or watercourse, an assessment shall be made of the impact and effect of the proposed activity. The regulations also establish procedures by which the conformity of local wetlands regulations will be determined. Hearings were held in Hartford, Waterbury, Storrs, New London and Norwalk. Copies of the regulations are available from the town or city clerk's office in Stamford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, New London, Norwich and Willington, or the Water and Related Resources Unit, Room 215, DEP.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL - Public hearings were also held on an important procedure in water pollution control - the application of the State to administer in Connecticut the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The Federal Water Pollution Control Act passed by Congress in 1972 provides that federal permits must be obtained by any person wishing to discharge pollutants into navigable waters. States may administer this federal permit system if their application to do so is approved by the Administrator of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Connecticut has been administering a waste water discharge permit system since 1925, and our permit system required little change to conform to the federal procedures. Due to this excellent existing program, Connecticut was one of the first states to apply to administer the program.

The public hearing to consider this matter was held at the State Capitol on September 13. For further information, call the DEP information number, 566-5599.